

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

END OF U.S. MILITARY OPERATIONS IN IRAQ

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, yesterday marked the official end of United States military operations in Iraq. President Obama has fulfilled his promise to bring all of our troops home by December and, for that, I commend him.

I objected to the invasion of Iraq at the outset, and I have vigorously opposed it since. As we withdraw from Iraq after nearly nine years of war, there is no sense of "mission accomplished" because the mission was incomprehensible. We invaded the country under false pretenses and deliberate misrepresentations: no credible evidence pointed to the existence of weapons of mass destruction and, not surprisingly, none were found.

It is my hope that history books accurately will record the sorry consequences of invading a sovereign nation on the basis of adulterated evidence. That is what we did in 2003, and our country has paid, and will continue to pay, dearly for its foolish rush to war. Today, Iraq's economy is in shambles, its coalition government is fragile, anti-Americanism runs high, and violence abounds.

Since we launched this war, nearly 4,500 American soldiers have lost their lives and tens of thousands have sustained lifelong injuries. Their sacrifice must be honored and remembered. One way to do so is by not repeating the grievous mistakes that led us into Iraq. My fear is that those who sought this war again are urging conflict—this time with Iran. George Santayana warned that "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." Let us reflect at length on the punishing costs of war and its unforgiving legacy.

CONGRATULATIONS TO TIME WARNER CABLE ON THE OPENING OF THEIR D.C. BUREAU

HON. RENEE L. ELLMERS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mrs. ELLMERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Time Warner Cable for its investment in local television news coverage in North Carolina and its recent expansion into Washington, D.C.

By opening a news bureau in our nation's capital, the people of North Carolina will have another outlet to learn about the important work being done on their behalf and other updates that are important to the communities throughout the region.

Mr. Speaker, TWC is dedicating significant resources to high quality local news channels that provide critical local news, weather, traffic

and sports coverage in the communities that they serve.

In my district, the Raleigh research triangle area is home to some of the leading innovators in technology and healthcare. The legislation that we pursue and enact in Washington has an enormous impact on these businesses and research facilities. With Time Warner Cable's commitment to reporting both at the local and national level, they are giving our residents an important resource to stay informed and involved.

I applaud Time Warner Cable for recognizing the importance of local news, for investing in it and creating jobs while providing this critical service to their customers and the constituents I serve.

IN RECOGNITION OF RICHARD ROBINSON

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my friend, Richard Robinson in the event of his retirement after seven dedicated years of service as Chief Executive Officer of Stanislaus County.

Rick was appointed Stanislaus County Chief Executive Officer in September 2004. In this position, under the director of the Board of Supervisors, Rick oversees all aspects of Stanislaus County government, which includes 26 County departments, a \$900 million operating budget and over 3,600 employees.

Faced with severe financial challenges during the current economic crisis, Rick led an effort to develop a multi-year framework around which the County budget functions, a strategy which enables the County to address both current and future year budget shortfalls in a systematic and proactive manner. During his career with Stanislaus County, he also led many efforts aimed at strengthening the County health care safety net, including successful initiatives to attain the Federally Qualified Health Care Facility Designation in the County's health clinic system, a multi-year effort to retain the County Residency Program, and the sale and transition of the Stanislaus Behavior Health Center to private ownership.

Prior to his appointment with Stanislaus County, Rick had, since 1991, held the position of Chief Administrator with Tehama County. Rick started his local government career in 1982 as an Accountant for the Tehama County Auditor-Controller's Office. In 1986, he was elected Auditor-Controller and ran unopposed for a second four-year term in 1990.

Rick currently serves on several local committees, including the Community Hospice Board of Directors, the Governing Board of Doctors Medical Center, Stanislaus Workforce Alliance Board of Directors and the Valley First Credit Union Supervisory Committee. Rick was recently honored by the Stanislaus

County Equal Rights Commission as a recipient of the 2011 Annual Dale Butler Equal Rights Award for exemplary service in equal employment opportunity matters and leadership in promoting equal rights.

Rick was an honors graduate of California State University, Chico, earning his degree in Business Administration with an emphasis in Accounting. He is a lifetime selection to Beta Gamma Sigma, a national scholastic honor society for business graduates. Rick has been married to his beautiful wife Kathy for 37 years. They have 4 children and 8 grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring my good friend, Mr. Richard Robinson for his years of dedication to the County of Stanislaus.

TO COMMEND ZIAMATIC CORPORATION FOR RECEIVING THE GOVERNOR'S AWARD FOR SAFETY AND EXCELLENCE IN 2011

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a prestigious Bucks County based company, Ziamatic, for receiving the Governor's Award for Safety and Excellence. Ziamatic Corp. (ZICO) was founded in 1958 with the intention of providing the men and women in the fire services industry with products that make their profession safer and easier. Over the years, Ziamatic has grown to become a leading manufacturer of fire and safety equipment in the United States. Today, the Yardley-based company employs 33 people.

For almost half of the last century, ZICO has designed and developed dozens of new products ranging from breathing apparatus to ambulance equipment and ladder access systems. With each new design, one thing has always been consistent: quality. Before a product has the ZICO name attached to it, it must undergo rigorous testing to be sure that it meets the highest of standards.

Thank you to Mike Ziayalek, and all of the employees at Ziamatic. Congratulations on receiving the Governor's Award for Safety and Excellence. We appreciate all that you do for the community and wish you many more years of success.

HONORING THE SAINT XAVIER UNIVERSITY COUGARS FOOTBALL TEAM FOR PLAYING THE NAIA CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 2011 St. Xavier University Cougars football team, who will compete in the

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.